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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/725,278	12/01/2003	Linda Van Patten Benhase	TUC920030094US1 (16800)	2547
46263 7590 04/16/2007 SCULLY, SCOTT, MURPHY, & PRESSER 400 GARDEN CITY PL GARDEN CITY, NY 11530			EXAMINER BASHORE, WILLIAM L	
			ART UNIT 2176	PAPER NUMBER

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/16/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/725,278

Applicant(s)

BENHASE ET AL.

Examiner

William L. Bashore

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 February 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 4-6, 21 and 22 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3 and 7-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: amendment filed 2/1/2007, to the original application filed 12/1/2003, IDS filed 12/1/2003.
2. Claims 3-22 pending. Claims 1-2 have been canceled, and claims 21-22 have been added, by Applicant. Claims 1, 7, 13, 19, 21 are independent.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. **Claims 21-22, 4-6 are allowed.**

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. Claim 3 recites the limitation "*A method according to Claim 1*". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim, since claim 1 has been canceled by Applicant.

The instant Office action will not further examine claim 3 on the merits at this time, since the examiner cannot find a possible interpretation regarding claim dependency so as to preserve antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. **Claims 7-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greenfield et al. (hereinafter Greenfield), U.S. Patent No. 6,544,294 issued April 2003.**

In regard to independent claim 7, Greenfield teaches a method of displaying text based objects divided and displayed as a plurality of columns of data, said display utilizing various hierarchical levels (Greenfield Figure 10). It is noted that Figure 10 items “Act 1”, “Act 2”, etc., can be fairly interpreted as columns, with sub-columns “Scene 1” etc., accordingly). It is noted that content and headers can be combined to produce a “modified” table.

Greenfield teaches sub-columns within a single table column, each having associated headers (Greenfield Figure 10 – item headers: “Scene 1: Court”, “Scene 2”, (both under single table column “Act 1: The Journey Begins”).

Greenfield teaches an alternate table display (Greenfield Figure 9) showing slider bars and scrollable windows. Greenfield also teaches another alternate table display (Greenfield Figure 8). All three displays reflect headers (i.e. Act 1, etc). Since these are optional alternate displays, said displays can be fairly interpreted as displayed separately at different locations and resized accordingly. It is noted that although Greenfield does not forcefully disclose a “dummy” table, nevertheless, Greenfield does teach that data within a window of displays 8, 9, and 10 can be hidden (Greenfield column 10 lines 30-41, especially lines 37-41, column 13 lines 1-9). It is also within reason that an author of a play can first create headers, and fill in the content windows later. These teachings provide reasonable suggestion to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to create “dummy” displays (without content data and/or header data), providing the benefit of displaying initial presentation outlines of a textual work.

Greenfield teaches display (Greenfield Figure 10), and an alternate table display (Greenfield Figure 9) showing slider bars and scrollable windows. Greenfield also teaches another alternate table display (Greenfield Figure 8). All three displays reflect headers and sub-columns accordingly (i.e. Act 1, etc).

Greenfield teaches a table with (sub-columns) dragged and dropped into another position on a display accordingly (Greenfield Figure 6, also column 7 lines 27-47).

Greenfield does not forcefully teach multiple dummy tables together at the same time side by side at different locations to form a composite table. However, it is respectfully noted that Greenfield teaches a “detail switch” for not displaying a content window for all events in a given window, and allows a user to create, edit and modify the event’s content (Greenfield column 9 lines 3-11), therefore the content windows of item 1012, 1014, and other content windows within Greenfield Figure 10 are editable. Since revisions of pertinent sections of plays and novels are typical (said revisions can reasonably include erasing sectioned content), it is well within reason that an author can erase all content in any one (or all) of the headers of Figure 10 (i.e. erasing all content in “Act 1” and in “Scene 1”), leaving its headers as “dummy tables” which are displayed side-by-side, and interpreted as composite, since Scene 1 is hierarchically located within Act 1, etc. Greenfield Figure 10 also shows tables placed separately in different positions. This limitation would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, in view of the above, allowing a user to keep a general outline of a play while filling in (and revising) sections therefore keeping the basic outline intact.

Greenfield teaches at Figure 10 a display showing hierarchical levels of columns and headers of a play. As explained above, content and headers can be modified accordingly. Since it is well established that a story or play can change, the position of headers can be repositioned accordingly. Since Greenfield deals with a play, a typical play’s hierarchical continuity provides reasonable suggestion to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to allow for logical linkage relationships between headers, so as to facilitate preservation of said play’s continuity.

In regard to dependent claim 8, Greenfield teaches display (Greenfield Figure 10), and an alternate table display (Greenfield Figure 9) showing slider bars and scrollable windows. Greenfield also teaches another alternate table display (Greenfield Figure 8). All three displays reflect headers and sub-headers accordingly (i.e. Act 1, etc).

In regard to dependent claim 9, Greenfield teaches display (Greenfield Figure 10), and an alternate table display (Greenfield Figure 9) showing slider bars and scrollable windows. Greenfield also teaches another alternate table display (Greenfield Figure 8). All three displays reflect headers and sub-headers accordingly (i.e. Act 1, etc). The alternate tables display the headers accordingly.

In regard to dependent claims 10, 11, Greenfield does not specifically disclose “only” a header, nevertheless, Greenfield does teach that data within a window of displays 8, 9, and 10 can be hidden (Greenfield column 10 lines 30-41, especially lines 37-41). It is also within reason that an author of a play can first create headers, and fill in the content windows later. These teachings provide reasonable suggestion to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to create displays with headers only (without content data), providing the benefit of displaying initial presentation outlines of a textual work. Said data tables additionally contain a multitude of data columns with data (i.e. data cells, etc.) accordingly.

In regard to dependent claim 12, Greenfield teaches display (Greenfield Figure 10), and an alternate table display (Greenfield Figure 9) showing slider bars and scrollable windows. Greenfield also teaches another alternate table display (Greenfield Figure 8). All three displays reflect headers and all sub-headers accordingly (i.e. Act 1, etc).

In regard to independent claim 13, Greenfield teaches a method of displaying text based objects divided and displayed as a plurality of columns of data, said display utilizing various hierarchical levels (Greenfield Figure 10). It is noted that Figure 10 items “Act 1”, Act 2”, etc., can be fairly interpreted as columns, with sub-columns “Scene 1” etc., accordingly). It is noted that content and headers can be combined to produce a “modified” table.

Art Unit: 2176

Greenfield teaches sub-columns within a single table column, each having associated headers (Greenfield Figure 10 – item headers: “Scene1: Court”, “Scene 2”, (both under single table column “Act 1: The Journey Begins”).

Greenfield teaches an alternate table display (Greenfield Figure 9) showing slider bars and scrollable windows. Greenfield also teaches another alternate table display (Greenfield Figure 8). All three displays reflect headers (i.e. Act 1, etc). Since these are optional alternate displays, said displays can be fairly interpreted as displayed separately at different locations and resized accordingly. It is noted that although Greenfield does not forcefully disclose a “dummy” table, nevertheless, Greenfield does teach that data within a window of displays 8, 9, and 10 can be hidden (Greenfield column 10 lines 30-41, especially lines 37-41, column 13 lines 1-9). It is also within reason that an author of a play can first create headers, and fill in the content windows later. These teachings provide reasonable suggestion to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to create “dummy” displays (without content data and/or header data), providing the benefit of displaying initial presentation outlines of a textual work.

Greenfield teaches display (Greenfield Figure 10), and an alternate table display (Greenfield Figure 9) showing slider bars and scrollable windows. Greenfield also teaches another alternate table display (Greenfield Figure 8). All three displays reflect headers and sub-columns accordingly (i.e. Act 1, etc).

Greenfield teaches a table with (sub-columns) dragged and dropped into another position on a display accordingly (Greenfield Figure 6, also column 7 lines 27-47).

Greenfield does not forcefully teach multiple dummy tables together at the same time side by side at different locations to form a composite table. However, it is respectfully noted that Greenfield teaches a “detail switch” for not displaying a content window for all events in a given window, and allows a user to create, edit and modify the event’s content (Greenfield column 9 lines 3-11), therefore the content windows of item 1012, 1014, and other content windows within Greenfield Figure 10 are editable. Since revisions of pertinent sections of plays and novels are typical (said revisions can reasonably include erasing sectioned content), it is well within reason that an author can erase all content in any one (or all) of the headers of Figure 10 (i.e. erasing all content

Art Unit: 2176

in “Act 1” and in “Scene 1”), leaving its headers as “dummy tables” which are displayed side-by-side, and interpreted as composite, since Scene 1 is hierarchically located within Act 1, etc. Greenfield Figure 10 also shows tables placed separately in different positions. This limitation would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, in view of the above, allowing a user to keep a general outline of a play while filling in (and revising) sections therefore keeping the basic outline intact.

Greenfield teaches at Figure 10 a display showing hierarchical levels of columns and headers of a play. As explained above, content and headers can be modified accordingly. Since it is well established that a story or play can change, the position of headers can be repositioned accordingly. Since Greenfield deals with a play, a typical play’s hierarchical continuity provides reasonable suggestion to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to allow for logical linkage relationships between headers, so as to facilitate preservation of said play’s continuity.

In regard to dependent claims 14-18, claims 14-18 reflect the computer program product comprising computer executable instructions used for performing the methods of the system as claimed in claims 8-12 respectively, and are rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to independent claim 19, Greenfield teaches a method of displaying text based objects divided and displayed as a plurality of columns of data, said display utilizing various hierarchical levels (Greenfield Figure 10). It is noted that Figure 10 items “Act 1”, “Act 2”, etc., can be fairly interpreted as columns, with sub-columns “Scene 1” etc., accordingly). It is noted that content and headers can be combined to produce a “modified” table.

Greenfield teaches sub-columns within a single table column, each having associated headers (Greenfield Figure 10 – item headers: “Scene 1: Court”, “Scene 2”, (both under single table column “Act 1: The Journey Begins”).

Greenfield teaches an alternate table display (Greenfield Figure 9) showing slider bars and scrollable windows. Greenfield also teaches another alternate table display (Greenfield Figure 8). All three displays reflect headers (i.e. Act 1, etc). Since these are optional alternate displays, said displays can be fairly interpreted as displayed separately at different locations and resized accordingly. It is noted that although Greenfield does not forcefully disclose a “dummy” table, nevertheless, Greenfield does teach that data within a window of displays 8, 9, and 10 can be hidden (Greenfield column 10 lines 30-41, especially lines 37-41, column 13 lines 1-9). It is also within reason that an author of a play can first create headers, and fill in the content windows later. These teachings provide reasonable suggestion to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to create “dummy” displays (without content data and/or header data), providing the benefit of displaying initial presentation outlines of a textual work.

Greenfield teaches display (Greenfield Figure 10), and an alternate table display (Greenfield Figure 9) showing slider bars and scrollable windows. Greenfield also teaches another alternate table display (Greenfield Figure 8). All three displays reflect headers and sub-columns accordingly (i.e. Act 1, etc).

Greenfield teaches a table with (sub-columns) dragged and dropped into another position on a display accordingly (Greenfield Figure 6, also column 7 lines 27-47).

Greenfield does not forcefully teach multiple dummy tables together at the same time side by side at different locations to form a composite table. However, it is respectfully noted that Greenfield teaches a “detail switch” for not displaying a content window for all events in a given window, and allows a user to create, edit and modify the event’s content (Greenfield column 9 lines 3-11), therefore the content windows of item 1012, 1014, and other content windows within Greenfield Figure 10 are editable. Since revisions of pertinent sections of plays and novels are typical (said revisions can reasonably include erasing sectioned content), it is well within reason that an author can erase all content in any one (or all) of the headers of Figure 10 (i.e. erasing all content in “Act 1” and in “Scene 1”), leaving its headers as “dummy tables” which are displayed side-by-side, and interpreted as composite, since Scene 1 is hierarchically located within Act 1, etc. Greenfield Figure 10 also shows tables placed separately in different positions. This limitation would have been obvious to one of ordinary

Art Unit: 2176

skill in the art at the time of the invention, in view of the above, allowing a user to keep a general outline of a play while filling in (and revising) sections therefore keeping the basic outline intact.

Greenfield does not specifically disclose “only” a header, nevertheless, Greenfield does teach that data within a window of displays 8, 9, and 10 can be hidden (Greenfield column 10 lines 30-41, especially lines 37-41). It is also within reason that an author of a play can first create headers, and fill in the content windows later. These teachings provide reasonable suggestion to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to create displays with headers only (without content data), providing the benefit of displaying initial presentation outlines of a textual work. Said data tables additionally contain a multitude of data columns with data (i.e. data cells, etc.) accordingly.

Greenfield teaches at Figure 10 a display showing hierarchical levels of columns and headers of a play. As explained above, content and headers can be modified accordingly. Since it is well established that a story or play can change, the position of headers can be repositioned accordingly. Since Greenfield deals with a play, a typical play’s hierarchical continuity provides reasonable suggestion to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to allow for logical linkage relationships between headers, so as to facilitate preservation of said play’s continuity.

In regard to dependent claim 20, claim 20 incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claimed in claim 19, and is rejected along the same rationale.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 2/1/2007 have been fully and carefully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant declares on page 11 of the amendment that claim 3 has been canceled. However, claim 3 is still present in the instant claim set.

Applicant argues on page 13 of the amendment that Greenfield does not teach logical relationships. The examiner respectfully disagrees. It is the intent of Greenfield to facilitate creation and modification of a story, or a play with hierarchically based sections. It would have at least been obvious to the skilled artisan to preserve the hierarchical skeleton of a play so that a play can be reopened for later modification and/or perusal.

Applicant argues on pages 14-15 of the amendment that Greenfield does not teach a "dummy" table, as claimed by Applicant. The examiner respectfully disagrees. It is reasonable for the skilled artisan to interpret Greenfield Figure 10, as comprising tables with headers, but with no textual content, so as to preserve an outline skeleton of a play for input later. It is well established that stories and plays are sometimes created and/or modified out of sequential order. It is within reason that Figure 10 header "Act 1: The Journey Begins", can be visible along with a blank input box (reflective of an incomplete section of a play, to be completed later).

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no

Art Unit: 2176

event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William L. Bashore whose telephone number is (571) 272-4088. The examiner can normally be reached on 11:30am - 8:00pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on (571) 272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

William L. Bashore
WILLIAM BASHORE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

April 12, 2007